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The 'Thinkers' Should Go!

By Henry J. Taylor



CHESTER BOWLES was in Ethiopia when President Kennedy acted about Cuba. This was a piece of good luck for Mr. Kennedy in the White House that Monday. But Theodore C. Sorensen, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Richard Goodwin, McGeorge Bundy and the other professors-turned-politicians were at hand.

President Kennedy crossed up their previous soft advice and scored an initial victory by doing so.

On the record, this courtisan cabal of strange thinkers has been wrong from start to finish. They have been wrong about Russia, wrong about our Allies, wrong about Castro, wrong about all of Latin America and wrong about the American people. And they'll stay wrong, too, for they are as out of place at the policy level of our government as gypsies who cry at christenings and dance at funerals.

Their advice to the President is sand, not rock. On the record, a more discredited group of mistaken neophytes has never bedded down in our White House to guide a President, or as arrogant a group, either.

Mr. Kennedy has other advisers, but this is the Nehru set; much in their mentality remains yoke of mixed-up Jawaharlal. Like Nehru, they build a Taj Mahal around each of their thoughts, and their persistent apologies for the Soviet have been just about as un-warding as Nehru's and equally as dangerous. Moreover, their advice that is expressed is only the visible end of the iceberg.

It all seems like some kind of debonair charade, Nehru-style, and the U. S. was so bewildered by their advice that the President received Algeria's bloody-handed Ben Bella, a saturnine Sino-Soviet stooge, with red-carpet treatment ("Mr. Prime Minister, we are proud to have you here"), knowing Bella was en route to Havana to embrace and support Castro.

That these pseudo-intellectuals in their donnish cocoons were up to their elbows in the Bay of Pigs debacle, with all that this implies, should have been enough to expel them from any high duties. Mr. Schlesinger, for example, was a main operative on the Miami sector of this incredible fiasco.

Our greater Cuba crisis stemmed from that disaster. Otherwise, enough that was needed would have been sent to the beaches to have won Cuba's freedom from Castro a year ago last April. Even after the Bay of Pigs the present action would have been taken months ago with specific reasons (and consistent with our nation's warning "we will not tolerate," "we will not hesitate," etc.) when Castro officially declared Cuba a communist state. There were no Soviet missiles pointing at our hemisphere then.

Resign? No, these strange thinkers are out for the full, rich life at the seat of power. If their course has led our country down hill they refuse to see this, rationalize it, and proceed at full speed, taking the President's coat-tails at the while.

Nobody can remake these advisers' thinking or their careers. Somehow these mixed-up preachers must go, and at once.